order to ensure fair selection, selection of dealers/distributors is made by an independent body viz. Oil Selection Board for the State, which consists of a Chairman who is a retd. High Court Judge and two prominent persons as Members, one of them belonging to SC/ST/ other weaker sections of the society. Actual number of selections depends on various elements such as number of locations advertised, number of interviews conducted by the OSBs, number of candidates appearing for each location, etc. It is a continuous process.

Alleged violation of rules by Oil Selection Boards

1566. SHRI GHUFRAN AZAM: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Oil Selection Board for Haryana had recently conducted interviews for the selection of R/o dealership at Palwal;

(b) if so, the date of interview, the date on which the panel was sent to the SLC-cum-Secretary and the date on which the panel was sent to the Indian Oil Corporation;

(c) whether the selection has been made as per the fixed procedure;

(d) if not, the action taken/proposed to be taken against the OSB for the said violation of Rules; and

(e) the details of such cases of Haryana, Delhi and Uttar Pradesh in which OSB has not sent the merit panel within 24 hours to SLC-cum-Secretary and to the respective oil companies within 48 hours during the last one year?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (CAPT. SATISH SHARMA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The interview for the Retail Outlet dealership at Palwal was held on 4/5-7-1995 by OSB (Haryana) and the panel was sent to SLC-cum-Non-Member Secretary, (OSB) on 5-7-1995. It was received by the Oil Company on 6-7-1995.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

(e) In a number of cases OSBs, Delhi, Haryana & U.P. could not release the merit panel within the stipulated time. OSBs have been impressed upon to adhere to the time-schedule for release of the panels after conducting interviews.

Procedure for disconnection of Telephones

1567. SHRI PARMESHWAR KUMAR AGARWALLA: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to refer to the answer to Unstarred Question 1250 given in the Rajya Sabha on 22nd March, 1995 and state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the procedure for disconnection of telephone connections for non-payment of bills is not being followed by the MTNL;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether registered notices were sent before disconnection of telephone numbers of 371 exchange during the months of May and June, 1995 for nonpayment of bills;

(d) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor;

(e) whether there is any stipulated time period within which such disconnected telephone numbers are restored on the payment of dues; and

(f) if so, the time period for the same and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI SUKH RAM): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) and (d) No, Sir. Registered notices are not issued to the subscribers of Digital Electronic Exchanges as in such cases, only incoming facility is allowed for 15 days to enable the customer to make the payment or reconcile the account, if the payment is already made.

The incoming facility is also withdrawn if the payment is not made within the 15 days time. Since exchange 371 level is from Digital electronic exchange, no registered notices are to be issued to the customers before carrying out disconnection of telephones due to non-payment of bills.

(e) and (f) Telephone connections disconnected due to non-payment of telephone

bills are restored on payment of dues, normally on the same day or latest by next day unless the telephone connection has remained disconnected due to non-payment of telephone bill for more than six months. Such cases take some time for restoration, requiring approval of the competent authority.

Arm Supply in Delhi

1568. SHRI O.P. KOHLI: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the attention of Government has been drawn to the news-item captioned For capital's big guns, arms are for peanuts... appearing in the Indian Express dated 22nd September, 1994;

(b) if so, the facts thereof; and

(c) the reaction of Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI P.M. SAYEED): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) The following persons mentioned in the news item have been allotted fire arms by the Government for amounts mentioned against their names:

Name	Amount
1. Shri R.L. Chugh	1100/-
2. Sh. Jaidev Sarangi	1000/-
3. Sh. Raja Vijay Karan	1000/-
4. Ms. Pratibha Karan	1000/-
5. Sh. K.J. Alphonse	3600/-
6. Sh. M.B. Kaushal	2750/-

The following persons have also been allotted fire arms but have not yet collected the same:

S/Shri

1. Ram Lal Rahi
2. R.K. Takkar
3. K.N. Daruwala
4. M.S.A. Siddiqui

In the case of Shri Siddiqui a request for cancellation of allotment has also been received.

Following guidelines issued by the Government in September, 1993 authorising State Governments/Union Territories to dispose of confiscated/forfeited fire arms and ammunition, the Government of National Capital Territory of Delhi constituted a Price Fixation Committee in June, 1994 consisting of ADM (Judicial) as Chairman, Deputy Secretary (Home), Deputy Secretary (Finance) of the Government of Delhi, and three arms dealers, as members. Since the formation of the Committee the prices fixed for the fire arms allotted to different persons have been substantially higher.

Foreign Investment in Road and Ship Building

1569. MISS SAROJ KHAPRADE: Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that some foreign firms have shown keen interest in the investment in road and ship building industry in the country;

(b) if so, what are the details thereof;

(c) whether Government have decided to allow these foreign firms to invest in these areas; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Foreign firms from countries like U.K., USA, Malaysia and Canada have shown interest in participating in the development of road sector. M/s Kavaerner of U.K. has shown interest for entering into Joint venture with Hindustan Shipyard Ltd., Visakhapatnam.

(c) and (d) The proposals for foreign investment are at a preliminary stage and it is being examined at appropriate level.

Target for LPG Connections in Punjab

1570. SHRI IQBAL SINGH: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have fixed the target to provide new LPG connections in the country particularly in the State of Punjab upto the end of the Eighth Five Year Plan;

(b) if so, what effective measures have been taken by Government in this regard;